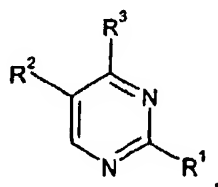


ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

This invention is directed to sorbitol dehydrogenase inhibitory compounds of the formula I,



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wherein R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> are as defined in the specification. This invention is also directed to pharmaceutical compositions containing those compounds and methods of treating or preventing diabetic complications, particularly diabetic neuropathy, diabetic nephropathy, diabetic microangiopathy, diabetic macroangiopathy and diabetic cardiomyopathy by administering such compounds to a mammal suffering from diabetes and therefore at risk for developing such complications. This invention is also directed to pharmaceutical compositions comprising a combination of a compound of formula I of this invention with an aldose reductase inhibitor and to methods of treating or preventing diabetic complications therewith. This invention is also directed to pharmaceutical compositions comprising a combination of a compound of formula I of this invention with an NHE-1 inhibitor and to methods of treating cardiomyopathy and other heart-related problems therewith. This invention is also directed to certain intermediates used in the synthesis of the compounds of formula I and to processes for preparing those intermediates.

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-Amendments to the Specification-

Immediately after the title, add the following cross reference:

-- CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a division of copending United States Application Number 10/384,424, filed March 10, 2003, which is a division of United States Application Number 10/087,869, filed February 28, 2002, which is a division of United States Application Number 09/538,039, filed March 29, 2000 which claims benefit of 60/127,437, filed April 1, 1999. -

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